

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**MAY 20, 2015**

Members in Attendance: Cynthia DeAngelis, Susan James, Michael Rademacher,  
Maureen St. Hilaire, Beverly Bevilacqua, Susan Tennant

Members Absent: Kerrie Fallon, John Thompson

Others Present: Representative Sean Garballey, Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator  
Barbara Cutler, Disability Advocate

### **Discussion with Representative Sean Garballey:**

Maureen St. Hilaire congratulated Sean for being named the House legislative member of the year by the ARC of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council. Sean said the State funding level for programs to help the Disabled have been increased since last year, but that funding levels are still not back to the level of a few years ago. Sean said that the Conference Committee will work with recommendations from the House and Senate to arrive at one budget. Sean said that the State of Massachusetts debates the budget each year unlike some States that debate their budgets every other year. Sean said that the State Legislature is required by law to appropriate funding for certain programs such as Health Care, roads, bridges, pensions etc. Other programs that are discretionary are health & human services, local aid, mental health, etc. These discretionary programs must compete for the remaining State funds. Sean praised the Arlington Health and Human Services Department for their high quality of work. Sean discussed a few legislative bills that he has worked on. One of the bills was to provide hearing aids for hard of hearing children between seven and ten years old. Sean said that it is important for people to support funding for Human Service Programs. Sean said that he is very willing to attend future Disability Commission Meetings if invited.

### **Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2015:**

Michael Rademacher requested that the minutes be amended to correct the name of the consultant hired by Public Works to VHB, he also said that the minutes should state that the consultant has been hired to evaluate the entire section of sidewalk including landscaping from Franklin Street to Mill Street. Michael said that Carol Kowalski, Director of Planning and Community Development is considering options for replacing the walkway/driveway on the Maple Street side of the Senior Center building with a safer smoother surface. Michael made a motion to accept the minutes as amended which were then approved by the Commission.

**Commission Membership:**

Jack Jones said that Patrick Quinn has been appointed to the last open position on the Commission. Jack said that Patrick was out of state and unable to attend the May meeting.

**New Member Information Handbook:**

Jack Jones distributed the New Member Information Handbook to Commission Members that were present at the meeting. Cynthia DeAngelis said that the handbook should include the Open Meeting Law.

**Commission Budget:**

Jack Jones said that \$1,400 remains unspent in the Commission's FY 2015 budget. Cynthia DeAngelis suggested purchasing Kids on the Block Puppets. Maureen St. Hilaire suggested a mat that would be used for wheelchair use on landscaped surfaces. Michael Rademacher suggested purchasing a new recorder for recording Commission Minutes.

**Massachusetts Avenue Project:**

Michael Rademacher said that a Public Meeting was held during the week of May 11<sup>th</sup> for residents to ask questions about the project. Michael said that Lynch Contracting has been a very good contractor to work with. Michael said that the contractor intends to complete all the sidewalk work by the end of August. The contractor then plans to grind the road before repaving. The majority of work should be completed during this construction season with the contractor returning next spring to install plantings and street furniture. Michael said that there will be two lanes of traffic travelling west with one lane of traffic travelling east. This will enable two bike lanes to be installed.

**ADA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:**

Barbara Cutler suggested that the Commission prepare a booklet listing the Commission's accomplishments since being established in 1993. Barbara also suggested that the Commission include a list of concerns that the Commission hopes will be addressed in the near future, basically a wish list. Some members of the Commission agreed to meet one hour earlier prior to the next scheduled meeting to discuss plans for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

**ADA Coordinator's Report:**

Jack Jones discussed a complaint regarding after hour entry to an ATM machine located in Arlington Heights. During the day time hours an accessible side door entry is available to the ATM however in the evening when the side door is locked the only entrance is through the front of the building which requires traveling up a few stairs. Jack said that building owner is looking into this matter.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.